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Press Release

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100 knot winds force aircraft to divert from Anchorage airport

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Hurricane force winds have caused at least 23 flights to divert from the state's largest airport this morning.

Severe turbulence and winds up to 100 knots were reported by a flight crew that departed Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA) at about 8 a.m. today. Diverted flights continued on to Fairbanks International Airport.

While TSAIA remains open, the turbulence issues effectively closed the airspace around the airport due to safety concerns.

"We're working very closely to support our customers and one another," said Christine Klein, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner of Aviation.

As of 9 a.m., two flights arrived and those flight crews reported moderate to severe turbulence, indicating that the situation is apparently improving.

These weather-related events are being closely monitored by the FAA air traffic controllers and the airlines.

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